(v) A National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016) has been launched with several action points and priority projects for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

(vi) Independent monitoring of tiger reserves has been done by a panel of experts drawn as per the normative guidelines of the Ministry. A standardized format for evaluation has been prescribed for monitoring and evaluation, based on the framework of the World Commission of Protected Areas (IUCN).

(vii) A 'tiger habitat and population evaluation system' has been developed in the GIS domain, with inputs from the scientists of WII, involving the state officials and field staff. Based on this, the Project Tiger Directorate of the Ministry has refined the procedure with a peer review mechanism comprising of independent experts, both national and international (IUCN) for overseeing the primary data collection.

(viii) Tiger presence and its breeding status have been mapped for the entire country at taluk level amplification in the GIS domain for an assessment of habitat fragmentation.

Scam in mustard oil processing

2106. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scam regarding processing of mustard oil has taken place in Rajasthan and some senior officers of NAFED and traders have been arrested in the scam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of money involved in the scam;

(d) the details of such other scams that took place in the NAFED, so far; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to ensure non-repetition of scams in NAFED?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Due to bumper production of mustardseed and prices ruling below the Minimum Support Price (MSP), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), as central agency had to undertake the procurement of mustard seeds under the Price Support Scheme (PSS). Out of a total quantity of 20.93 lakh MT of mustardseed procured under the PSS, 14.03 lakh MTs of mustardseed was procured in Rajasthan alone. Due to acute shortage of storage space and financial constraints, it was decided to dispose off a part of the mustardseed procured through processing. NAFED invited tenders for processing of the mustardseed. Meanwhile, Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Government of Rajasthan registered an FIR impleading the then Branch Manager, NAFED, Jaipur and others. As per the information received from NAFED, 5 persons including one officer of NAFED were arrested.

(c) No amount of money either of Government or NAFED was involved in the scam.

(d) No other such incidence has come to the notice of the Government, so far.

(e) Immediately after receiving the report of registering the case by ACB, Government of Rajasthan NAFED was directed to streamline the procedure of disposal of mustardseed procured under PSS in a transparent manner. Further, the NAFED was directed to cancel the tenders in question.

Growth of food processing sector

2107. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether food processing sector is expected to grow at 10 per cent per year by 2010;

(b) if so, whether this will attract a minimum investment of Rs. 2000 crores;

(c) whether according to the study by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) the markets in developed countries will provide additional export opportunities for agricultural and